

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0124

USUN NEW YORK 3724

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7469

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, HOROWITZ AND LINSENMAYER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO

SUBJECT: ILO DG COMMENTS ON MARITIME CONFERENCE AND 1974 ISRAEL
RESOLUTION

1. SUMMARY: IN MY FIRST CALL ON HIM SEPTEMBER 23, ILO DG
BLANCHARD DISCUSSED THE UPCOMING ELECTION FOR THE PRESIDENCY
OF THE MARITIME CONFERENCE AND HIS REPORT TO THE ILO GOVERNING
BODY ON THE FOLLOWUP TO THE 1974 CONFERENCE RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN THE
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. END SUMMARY.

2. MARITIME CONFERENCE -- BLANCHARD EXPECTS THE MARITIME
CONFERENCE (OCTOBER 13-29) TO BE A "SOLID TECHNICAL CONFERENCE"
UNDISTURBED BY SERIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES. HE SAID HE IS ACTIVELY
WORKING FOR THE ELECTION OF HAREIDE AS PRESIDENT OF THE
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CONFERENCE AND HAS URGED THE EC NINE AND THE OFFICERS OF THE GOVERN-

ING BODY TO SUPPORT HIM. BLANCHARD WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION (ITF) WOULD MEET IN HAMBURG IN EARLY OCTOBER AND THAT THEIR SUPPORT FOR HAREIDE MIGHT THEN BE FORTHCOMING. BLANCHARD SAID HE HAD "AN INDICATION" THAT THE SOVIETS DID NOT SOLIDLY SUPPORT THE POLISH CANDIDATE BUT THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE CHECKED OUT. BLANCHARD HOPES TO ARRANGE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE POLISH CANDIDATE IN ORDER TO AVOID A SHOWDOWN VOTE AT THE CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, AT THIS POINT HE FEELS A VOTE IS PROBABLE. LABATT SUGGESTED THAT IF SUPPORT FOR THE NORWEGIAN CANDIDATE WERE STRONG ENOUGH, VOTE IN WHICH THE POLE WERE BADLY BEATEN WOULD BE PREFERABLE. BLANCHARD SAID IT WOULD BE INTERESTING "TO COUNT THE VOTES".

3. FOLLOWUP ON THE 1974 CONFERENCE RESOLUTION--BLANCHARD DESCRIBED HIS FOLLOWUP OF THE 1974 CONFERENCE CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AS "TWO YEARS OF FOOTDRAGGING AND DELAY". BECAUSE OF OBJECTIONS BY ARAB AMBASSADORS IN GENEVA, BLANCHARD HAS POSTPONED SENDING AN IMPARTIAL EXPERT TO ISRAEL TO INVESTIGATE THE ARAB ALLEGATIONS. THE ARABS OBJECTED TO THE MISSION BECAUSE SYRIA, JORDAN AND LEBANON, WHO HAVE RESIDUAL SOVEREIGNTY IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED. THE ARABS SAID THEY WANTED SUFFICIENT TIME TO ALERT PALESTINIAN GROUPS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WHO WOULD PRESENT THEIR CASE TO THE ILO TEAM. BLANCHARD AGREED THEY SHOULD HAVE TIME, POSTPONED THE DEPARTURE OF THE MISSION BUT RESERVED HIS RIGHT TO SEND IT LATER. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE ARABS USE EXISTING ILO PROCEDURES TO PURSUE THEIR ALLEGATIONS BUT THEY DECLINED TO DO SO. THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR ACTED AS SPOKESMAN; THE GROUP ALSO INCLUDED AMBASSADORS OF SYRIA, JORDAN, LEBANON, TUNISIA AND SAUDI ARABIA. THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA WAS PRESENT BUT SAID NOTHING.

4. I ASKED BLANCHARD HOW HE WOULD EXPLAIN THE ABOVE TO THE GOVERNING BODY IN NOVEMBER. BLANCHARD SAID HE WOULD BRIEFLY REPORT THE REASONS FOR POSTPONING THE MISSION AND TRY TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A GOVERNING BODY DECISION TO DROP THE MATTER. HE HAD DONE ALL HE COULD AND CONFIDENTIAL

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IF THE ARABS OBJECTED TO THIS MISSION, NOTHING ELSE WAS POSSIBLE. AS IN PAST GOVERNING BODY SESSIONS, HE WILL AGAIN URGE THE ARABS TO USE EXISTING ILO INVESTIGATORY PROCEDURES. HIS CHIEF CONCERN IS THAT "THE BOOK BE CLOSED QUIETLY" ON THE 1974 RESOLUTION SO THAT THE ARABS DO NOT INTRODUCE A SIMILAR RESOLUTION AT THE 1977 CONFERENCE. CATTO

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